

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Climax Post Office
Climax, Georgia

Docket No. A2013-3

INITIAL COMMENTS OF THE PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE

January 3, 2013

I. INTRODUCTION

On December 11, 2012, the Commission received a petition from Karen Toole, City Clerk, Citizen of Climax Georgia (Petitioner) to review the Postal Service's decision to close the Climax Post Office in Climax, Georgia (Climax Post Office).¹ On December 12, 2012, the Commission issued Order No. 1576, which institutes the current review proceeding, appoints a Public Representative, and establishes a procedural schedule.² In accordance with Order No. 1576, the Postal Service filed a motion to dismiss the proceeding in lieu of an administrative record.³ The Public Representative files these comments in support of the Postal Service's motion and suggests that the Commission dismiss the Petition without prejudice until such time that the issues are ripe for review.⁴

¹ Petition for Review Received from Karen Toole Regarding Climax, Georgia Post Office 39834, December 11, 2012 (Petition).

² Notice and Order Accepting Appeal and Establishing Procedural Schedule, December 12, 2012 (Order No. 1576).

³ Motion of United States Postal Service to Dismiss Proceedings, December 21, 2012.

⁴ The Commission has established a due date of January 24, 2012, for statements opposing the return of the matter for further consideration. Order No. 1576; see 39 C.F.R. 3025.42.

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Postal Service initiated a review of the Climax Post Office under the Post Office Structure Plan (POStPlan) procedures. While this review was in progress, the Postal Service entered into negotiations with the facility's landlord to renew the lease. The Postal Service and the landlord did not reach agreement to renew the lease. Thus, the Postal Service suspended operations at Climax Georgia on October 31, 2012, and as a result of the suspension, initiated a discontinuance feasibility study on November 1, 2012. The discontinuance feasibility study is in its early stages and no final decision to close the Climax Post Office has been made. The Postal Service has not prepared or formally posted a Proposal or a Final Determination at the Climax Post Office.

III. COMMENTS

The Public Representative suggests that the Commission dismiss the Petition without prejudice until such time that the issues presented by this docket are ripe for review. The Postal Service has not had an adequate opportunity to develop an Administrative Record or come to a final determination to close the Climax Post Office. Because the Postal Service has promptly initiated a discontinuance feasibility study, it does not appear that the Postal Service is keeping the citizens of Climax in limbo or abusing its suspension procedures. The Commission may want to monitor the progress of the discontinuance feasibility study to ensure prompt completion. Without evidence to the contrary, it appears that the Postal Service is continuing to provide adequate postal services to the citizens of Climax.

Respectfully submitted,

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